

# SPARC GAP

## ST. PETERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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CLUB MEETING ON THE FIRST FRIDAY

REPEATER MEETING ON THE THIRD FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH

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JUNE 1979.



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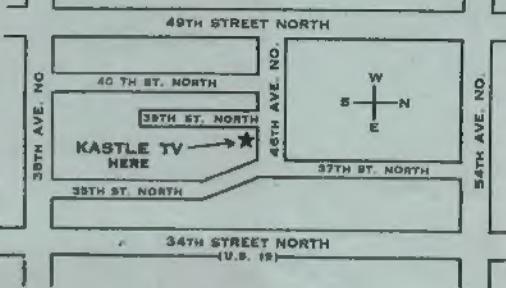
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S P A R C G A P

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON JUNE 1, 1979 AT RED CROSS HEADQUARTERS  
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\* \* \* \* \*

The meeting of May 4, 1979 was called to order at 8:00 P.M. by John WD4COL. Fifty-eight members and guests were introduced and welcomed.

John W4ACG gave the Station Report. He said that everything is o.k.

Woody K4SCL gave the Repeater Report. He said that the repeater continues to give us problems especially with the autopatch which is inoperable at the moment. The pre-amp was found to be defective and will be sent back to the factory. Rex W4GPL reported that the power supply to the repeater was accidentally disconnected at the repeater site, and continued in operation from Wednesday until Friday evening before it was noticed. It worked just fine on emergency power.

The minutes of the past two meetings were read and approved. The Treasurer's Report was given by Frank W4VIP.

Marie KA4BBB reported that there will be 36 hams on the Capt. Anderson for the evening cruise and dinner. Marie is writing our column in FLORIDA SKIP and is doing an excellent job.

The following is a new member of SPARC: Robert Sprung WA4RMN. Welcome Robert.

A window mount antenna, donated by AGL Electronics, was auctioned off. The proud owner is John WD4COL, and the SPARC treasury is richer by \$24.00.

John WB4LWB reported that the Hamfest plans are finalized, and everyone is looking forward to Sunday.

Jim K4FCW is assisting in the estate settlement of Jack Gordon W4MIM. A list of items will be published in this issue of SPARC GAP.

Terry WB4OYZ reported that CD does not have enough Amateur Radio operators to continue having a net. He asked for interested people to contact him.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M. for coffee and doughnuts and was called back to order at 9:00 P.M.

The program for the evening was presented by Mr. Arie DeGevs. Mr. DeGevs has been in this country for one and one half years having come from Holland. He is a manufacturer for solar equipment, and has been awarded several patents from the U.S. Patent Office. His subject for the evening was on Alternative Energy Sources. He had illustrations and pictures, and presented a complete and interesting talk.

A drawing was held for a Gift Certificate from Ray's Amateur Radio which was won by Jan KA4??? (sorry, I did not get her call, and I SHOULD know it by now.)

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 P.M.  
Respectfully submitted,  
WA4WOU

## SPARC REPEATER NEWS

May 8th saw the SPARC Repeater in the biggest actual emergency operation since its birth five years ago. Our long dry spell was broken by torrential rains, thunderstorms and tornadoes. More than 11 inches produced floods in Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties. From early morning W4GPL had SPARC personnel alerted while keeping a wary eye on the weather. WB4ONC, Red Cross Disaster Warning Chairman, kept in close touch with Weather Bureau. Flooding continued to grow in St. Petersburg and Pinellas Park. Up-county emergency nets were already in session on 223.34/224.94 and on 146.97, the 37/97 repeater having lost commercial power. After conference with K4SCL, Emergency Coordinator for Pinellas County, W4GPL called the SPARC Branch of the Pinellas Emergency Net into session at 1115. About 40 stations responded within the first hour. Metropolitan was already busy with telephone and power failures at Rutland. WA4LQO furnished liaison with Metro while WA4ESK and K4TH popped in from 220 and 37/97.

At 1201 WA4ROX reported visual sighting of a tornado touchdown at 66th Street and 126th Ave. North, damaging mobile homes in that area. Soon evacuees were being taken to Pinellas Park Municipal Auditorium, 59th Street and 76th Ave. North as an emergency shelter. Red Cross requested Amateur Radio communications with the shelter, there being no phones working. WA9CLA, motoring nearby, proceeded to the shelter and established first communications from there at 1215. SPARC Club Station W4GAC at Red Cross Headquarters had been activated at 1155 by WD4KGY who was joined shortly by N4AXN. At 1335 WA9CLA advised ARC that nurse Mrs Eleanor Hogan had arrived and taken charge of the emergency shelter. At 1526 there were 104 evacuees registered in the shelter. WB4YTY, on behalf of ARC Emergency Services had authorized purchase of food and drink for the evacuees. WA4UGS joined WA9CLA in shelter area and both were later relieved by WB4TPG and N4BMN. Next, WA4WOU and WA4LQO, assisted by WA4HKP, took their turn, and were relieved by W4GPL about midnight.

At W4GAC, 2 to 4 operators remained on duty til after midnight when secured by ARC upon establishment of phone service. GAC ops included WD4KGY, WB4YTY, N4AXN, KA4BPL, WD4FAL, N5AUV and N4NL.

Oh, yes, WA4WKO, WA4APV and WD4NHH had tours of duty at the shelter.

Garden Crest Church, 9th Ave N. & Tyrone Blvd. was opened as a shelter. WA4WEC went there as principal operator all evening, assisted by WB4LGT and WD4RQK.

Lealman Fire Headquarters was pressed into service as a shelter. WA4ELD proceeded there and established communications, soon relieved by WA4LQO and Metro. Lealman requested Amateur Radio circuits between their stations "to get some of this civilian traffic off our fire-fighting circuits." They had no phones. WA4KNI and Metro Repeater took over this task. At this point WA4ELD, with his truck capable of going through deep water, proceeded to rescue Michael Banton, 16, from his flooded home and join him with his mother at Lealman shelter.

All in all, Radio Amateurs did a commendable job, and I wish I could tell the story better!

73 de K4SCL

COMPLIMENTS OF  
W4TAD



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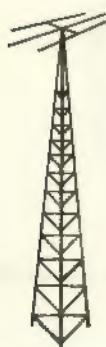
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SPARC GAP

WD4COK

John MacDonald  
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The Prez Sez:

Wow!! We had what had to be the best hamfest ever put on by the club. Congratulations to John Merada, WB4LWB, the hamfest chairman for the great job that he did. There was many nice prizes and lots of fun. First prize of \$270 went to Mrs. Rich Leis, XYL of W4WE, of Clearwater. The \$135 second prize went to M. A. Stoner, W4BJI, of Lakeland.

Everyone has now received his or her name badge, less a few. Florida Custom Plastics did a great job on them. As of this writing the following people have not picked up his/her badge and have not been contacted concerning such: WA4IIC, KBACQ, WB4PNV, WB4OAT, WD4ONZ, WA4OST, and WA4ULQ. These members are requested, if they have not already done so, to mail a check to Florida Custom Plastics for \$2.92. This covers all costs including mailing. The address is 9900 Uilmerton Rd. #56, Largo, Fl. 33540.

Another congratulatory comment comes to Clearwater's congenial consultant, Herb Tuell, W4IRA. Herb is the new appointee from our club to the Florida Gulf Coast Amateur Radio Council and thereby is a director of the council. The FGARC is the group that puts on the Clearwater Convention every November. We are fortunate to have Herb perform this duty for us.

Be sure to mark June 23-24 on your calendar and plan to participate in a combination picnic/field day which is being tentatively scheduled at this time. If you wish to operate, contact George, WA4TZM who may be found on the Metro machine. Plans are at present to go after a good score this year and we hope to do some "serious operating". CW, SSB, and novice operators are needed.

Thanks again to Ray's Amateur Radio on U.S. 19 in Clearwater and AGL on Drew in Clearwater for their prizes not only at the hamfest, but also at the club meetings. They have been very good to us and we should return the favor when thinking of that new piece of gear.

73/88 for now.

*John*

R.F. FILTERING WA4WKO

When there is a complaint of R.F.I. (Radio Frequency Interference) in stereo equipment an effective way to deal with the problem is to install filters in the leads picking up the R.F. Most useful in accomplishing this are discrete filters that use ferrite bars, toroids, ferrite beads, and small capacitors. Let's consider the speaker leads first. They can pickup and deliver a strong signal to the output terminals of the amplifier. The RF is passed back to the earlier stage by the feedback loop where it is converted into audio. The audio is then treated by the following stages as a normal audio signal. It is amplified and finally heard in the speakers. A good cure is to block the RF before it gets to or into the circuit by using an appropriate filter. The speaker leads can be converted into RF chokes by winding them around ferrite bars or toroids or using ferrite beads. Stubborn cases will sometimes yield to using 2 conductor shielded wire for the speakers. Inexpensive disc ceramic capacitors rated at 250 volts, or higher off .001 to .01 microfarad are suitable for placement across speaker leads. The capacitors will appear as a short circuit to the RF signals, preventing them from entering the amplifier. However, they will be essentially open circuits to the audio output signals. Thus they have little effect on the frequency response. Some amplifiers however, might act up if a capacitor is placed directly across the speaker terminals. So it is a situation of trying.

Some of our repeater people suggest several turns of the AC line cord around a ferrite core. It is believed to help combat those ac line spikes, surges that are sometimes on the lines during a storm. As an example check the newer circuitry on those imported TV transistor receivers.

RF in the input of microphones can sometimes be lessened by slipping the wires through a ferrite bead or beads. Elimination of the offensive voltage isn't as hard as you might think, fortunately we now have small components that can be simply used, cores, beads, capacities and in some cases tuned coils. If more data is needed on getting rid of a problem of this kind, the Radio Amateur Handbook and a host of other articles are on hand. Filters are not a mysterious thing, really they can be a most helpful tool. Just remember the lower the frequency the larger the capacity needed. The higher the smaller. Example for low freq. .1 to .01. HI freq. .009 to a picofarad. Hope this small article helps, at least the ideas are that getting rid of a problem is not that hard.....

Ham Radio Equipment from the estate of John Gordon, W4MIM being sold by a committee from Gator Chapter QCWA.

Antenna coupler, home made	25.00
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Committee: Vern Parks, Chmn. K4IGO 381-5411 Ext. 1716 James Keyes K4FCW 822-1699 Dave Davis W4GQ 347-6977	

# HELL IS NO JOKE !

Some folks say most of their friends will be there. Others say they will open an air conditioning business in hell. Just kidding? I hope so. It is easy to joke about this subject while we are enjoying our good health, and the furthest thing from our mind is where we are going to spend eternity.

What do we do to go to hell? NOTHING! Surprised? We need do nothing to go to hell because we have already done it. We all stand as guilty sinners before God, we deserve to be punished (Ezek. 18:4).

Most do not fear God today because they do not realize how awful hell is going to be. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth in hell! (Matt. 13:49,50). God also says the smoke of their torment will ascend forever and ever (Rev. 14:10,11).

Do not feel God is harsh to allow people to go to hell. He surely does not want anyone there. God's holiness and righteousness demand that sin be punished.

You do not have to go to hell for God provided a way--ONE WAY!! Your good deeds won't do it, your church membership or regular attendance won't do it, your lodge membership won't do it. You can quit smoking, drinking, acting ugly and going to picture shows and that still won't do it.

God made it so simple that even the little children can understand. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved (John 3:16,17).



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THOT: How far away is eternity? Put your hand on your chest--feel your heart beat. Thats how far away eternity is, a heartbeat!

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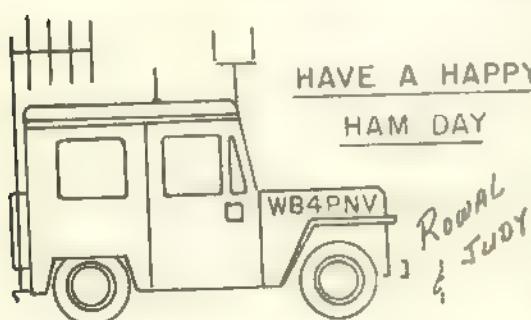
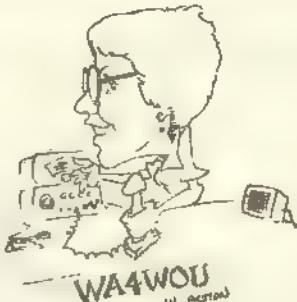
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THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1978

95th Congress HR 13015

by Wells Chapin, re: WA4WKO

Reprinted from Worldradio, January 1979

Hr Bill 13015 in the House of Representatives, dated 7 June, 1978, has gone a long way in the legislative process. It is a 217 page document of seven titles and 700 sections. It has gone through various hearings, starting in Washington and thence to several cities.

Amateurs have represented our cause quite well in these cities, but due to the fact that they had little notice and practically no help, their efforts could not be as effective as if they had been coordinated.

The chances of this bill becoming law are excellent. There may be some modifications of the document but it will probably pass just about as is because all the lobbying is an accomplished fact. Our old law, "The Communications Act of 1934", will bite the dust to be supplanted by the new law, "The Communications Act of 1978", which abolishes the FCC and establishes a new regulatory agency, The Communications Regulatory Commission, (CRC). This should happen in the 96th Congress.

It is interesting to note that the old Act of 1934 made it a little difficult for political maneuvering. The proposed Act of 1978 is a politician's paradise. It simplifies the lobbying so that one knows exactly where to apply the pressure. The Act also provides a "Pork Barrel" to promote minority activities in communications. The new CRC has the power to grant monies, has complete control over public broadcasting, the commercial communications field and is quite specific in the area of communications companies' ability to manufacture, sell and use their own equipment. The most significant change is in Section 413, Title #4, page 71 which reads:

(a) The CRC shall assess a license fee for all users of the electromagnetic spectrum. Such fee shall take into account (1) the cost to the Commission of processing the license; and (2) the scarcity value of the spectrum being assigned, except that the Commission may waive such factor in computing the fee if it determines that...and there then follows six pages describing what will be charged. Thus our scarce spectrum now becomes valuable and saleable. What will they charge us Amateurs depends how our "non-existent lobby" will lobby and on what effect the CB lobby will have.

Another Section that could have a significant effect on Amateur Radio is Title 2, Section 215 which establishes an "Office of Consumer Acceptance". This could be a real trap which would be very prone to all types of lobbying effort. There is no specific threat to Amateur Radio; however, the basic policy of competition for spectrum and associated goal of deregulation could spell trouble for Amateur Radio. The new law could open the door for CB unless we Amateurs do some extensive lobbying. Amateur Radio gets a mention in the document but it is disturbing to see we are just tolerated. CB was not mentioned as such.

Probably the most important to Amateur Radio is Title 7. Its sections propose a "National Telecommunications Agency", (NTA). This will be a very powerful agency for among its many duties and responsibilities is the allocation of frequencies for all services.

One good thing this agency will do is pull together the responsibility for allocation of spectrum into one agency, whereas it is now very difficult, if not impossible, to tell who is responsible for allocation of frequencies in this government. This certainly will make lobbying simple and mandatory.

My overall view of this new law is that it is well written and does retain a great amount of the old law as the result of experience. What the new agency will do though, is have a field day shuffling people and responsibilities to match their political leanings. It should be interesting to watch. We Amateurs do not have an effective lobby, or perhaps our efforts are so feeble that we might as well forget them. (The obvious response is that we desperately need someone to lobby for us if we are to retain our privileges - Ed.)

## SPARC GAP

## HISTORY-ST PETERSBURG AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

CONTINUED

1971

Princess Martha Hotel was the scene of the Installation Dinner for 1971. Officers: President, K4NE-Lew Sieck; Vice-Pres., WB4QVB-Bob Greenfield; Secty./Treas., W4TDK-Naomi Spence; Directors: W4RUN-Lew Litzenberg; K4WXS-Lee Kanarian; W4CXL-Jack Faulstich & W4AGG-John Smith, Past Pres. & W4MHR-Burt Daisey continued as Trustee.

SPARC lost a Charter Member & an old timer when W4TY-Bob Fenimore became a Silent Key, Jan. 4, 1971. Bob had been in radio since 1912; was one of the originators of the OOT Club & active member of QCWA. His YF-Edwina enjoyed all his ham activities, though not a ham herself.

Interesting programs were always provided at all meetings, but one outstanding one was presented March 5, 1971, when W4ANL-Harry Longerich, who had been commissioned to build a Satellite Earth Station for the King of Morocco-CN8-land. He told of his work during two years there & also gave an insight of conditions in that country.

The annual Hamfest was held, as usual, May 16th, at Lake Maggiore, with over 215 attending. There were prizes galore, so all day, except when they "were feeding their faces", prizes were being awarded.

To revert back to the Yucatan Yacht Race, it was brought to our attention that one of the Mexican hams used the race to good advantage. He asked us to purchase about \$150.00 worth of ham gear for his mobile rig. After driving to Sarasota, Tampa & Clearwater, it was finally procured & then next day, Jack Eckerd (yes, the drug store man) flew it to Yucatan on his private plane.

July 2, 1971, saw SPARC once again moving; this time to the Pinellas Community Service Center, 2639 - 9th St. No. A separate room was supplied for the women who wanted to play cards & "Yatch", with the meeting in progress in other room.

ZS6GS-Dan Mahoney, from Johannesburg, So. Africa, who was on a 45-day tour of U.S. & Canada, was guest of WB4MOM-Ray Revere. As many local hams had worked him, they had a get-together at home of W4ANL-Harry Longerich. Dan enjoyed it so much, spent more time here than scheduled.

SPARC membership up to 115 in Oct. 1971. November the 4th Edition of Florida Ham Directory, published by Amateur Radio Club of Florida, was issued by W4NOK-Jack Adams. It was very popular & a handy book to have for reference by call listing, as well as alphabetical by name, listing 11,500 hams in Florida.

Another "oldtimer" & member, W4PT-"Doc" Barclay joined the Silent Keys. He & YF-Marion had a number of hamfests at their lakeside cottage in Tampa & gave us showing of their trip to Alaska, via the Inland Waterway.

It was this year the U.S. Callbook celebrated their 50th Anniversary, with a new approach & soaring price. Starting with the Winter issue 1971-72, the price was \$8.95 & Foreign \$6.95, but instead of quarterly Callbooks, a subscription service was offered for Spring, Summer & Fall, with a cost of \$6.00 U.S. & \$4.50 Foreign, to keep your book up to date with lists of new licensees, Silent Keys, etc.

2-meter FM was brought to attention of SPARC by article in Dec. SPARC, by W4NOK-Jack, who purchased a Drake ML-2 & was enjoying Frequency Modulation; suggested might be a good idea for our Club Station-W4GAC to start a local Net on it.

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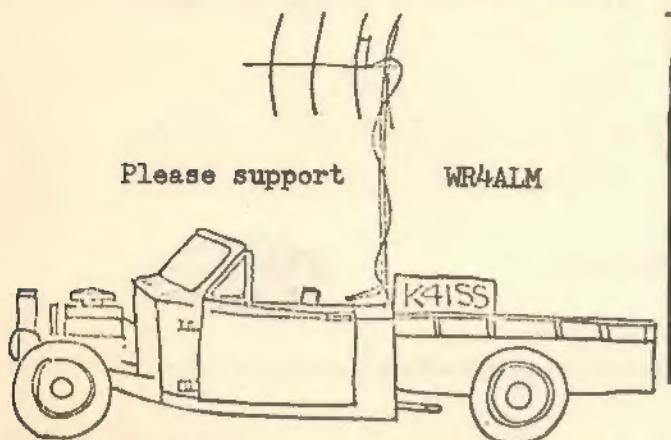
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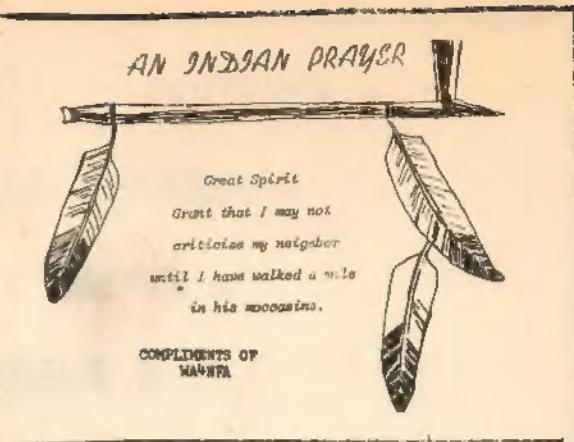
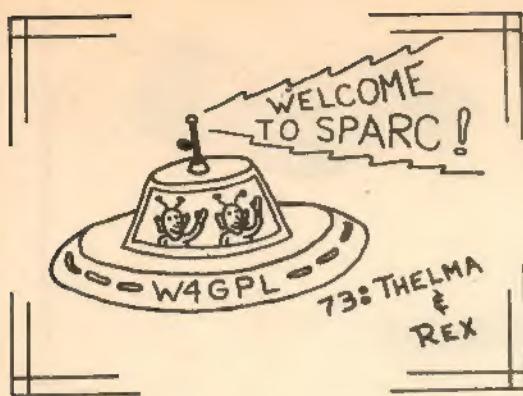
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